

KINDS OF GOVERNMENT.

In view of the favorable progress of peace negotiations the Cabinet has begun consideration of what is to be done with Cuba and Puerto Rico. Naturally the discussion does not take a wide range, since the Executive power is limited to providing a temporary military government for each, pending Congressional action.

Nevertheless, the views of the Administration are likely to have weight with Congress and are of interest for that reason. These are stated to be favorable to making Puerto Rico a colonial dependency, with a Military Governor, and to give the people of Cuba, under the provisional military control, the opportunity to elect, by popular vote, whether they shall have an independent republic, become a colonial dependency of the United States, or be annexed as a territory of the United States. Either of these, it is said, would be agreeable to the Administration.

Either the first or the last would be agreeable to a majority of the people of this country, says the Pittsburg Dispatch. It is probable that a great number of Americans would prefer that Cuba should have a probationary existence as an independent republic before being annexed to the United States. But if the whole people of the island insist on rushing in without further preparation than they already have they will no doubt be accepted and made the best of that circumstances will permit.

It is not likely that "colonial dependencies" will meet with much favor outside the spheres of ambitious military men and professional politicians. The very term has a harsh sound and is suggestive of policies foreign to the United States. The plain people naturally expect some trouble in settling up the affairs of territories left to American disposition by the Spanish defeat. They are willing to bear the burden of such necessary trouble and expense. But they look and hope for a thorough and permanent settlement that will not leave a heritage of sorrow to their children.

GOOD TO REMEMBER.

At the request of a subscriber, THE OPTIC calls attention to the fact that City Ordinance No. 3, Section 12, provides that "It shall be unlawful for any person to carry deadly weapons, concealed or otherwise on or about their person, within the corporate limits of the City of Las Vegas."

Section 14, same ordinance reads as follows: "Any person who shall handle or discharge firearms within the corporate limits of the City of Las Vegas in a careless or reckless manner, or in a manner liable to endanger life or property shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof be fined not less than \$5.00 nor more than \$25.00 for each offense."

As a result of the last war, campaign orators will not be compelled to go back a generation for oratory material.

MANY of the leading papers of the east are urging the press everywhere to so agitate the question of holding the Philippines, that the Administration shall be made aware of the sentiment of the people on the subject.

A man says "I shall," and a woman says "I will!"

THE MOKI SNAKE DANCE.

This admirably printed book of sixty pages and sixty-four half-tone illustrations is not only one of the most striking publications of the year, but also has the merit of presenting for the first time in popular form an adequate account of a fascinating and dramatic Indian ceremony, whose particulars have hitherto been chiefly confined to scientific treatises. The snake dance of this ancient and singularly interesting people of the Arizona desert is a prayer for rain, addressed to the gods in the underworld, to whom the snakes are believed to act as messengers. The Moki god of water is the ancestral Snake, and as the Moki are agricultural Indians, subsisting on the precarious crops of an arid region, the clue to the ceremony is readily perceived. It takes place shortly after the middle of August, a season when ripening rains are possible, but by no means sure. The entire ceremony consumes nine days, the first eight of which are occupied with secret rites in underground sacred chambers. On the ninth day the snakes, of which sometimes nearly a hundred are used, about one-third being venomous rattlers, are held in the hands and even the mouths of the dancers as they march or dance around the village plaza fantastically painted and costumed. Then the snakes are reverently restored to liberty entrusted with the Moki prayers to the gods. It is said by reliable observers that a heavy rain not infrequently follows promptly upon the close of this weird performance, and while many will conceive that this is only a coincidence, there are not wanting men of intelligence and education in our higher civilization who see no reason why the pious Saxon should believe in answer to his own prayer and deny that possibility to a savages who addresses his petition reverently to the nearest conception he has been able to form of the Overruling Power. There are seven Moki pueblos still clustered in that northern region of Arizona, where they were discovered by the Spaniards in the middle of the sixteenth century who named the locality the Province of Tusayan. At five of these Pueblos the snake dance is regularly celebrated every other year, so that one year the dance will occur at two villages and the other year at three. The Mokis are a far higher type of aborigines than one might infer from this ceremony alone. They are peaceful, industrious, thrifty, light-hearted and self-respecting, and have numerous other dances of a light and joyous character, in which brilliant costumes and pleasing melody are employed. It is doubtless only a question of a little time before the Government school and the mission.

The illustrations of this little book have been selected from the best existing collections of photographs on the subject. Routes, maps, etc., are included and all information needed by the intending visitor. Those who desire may obtain it on application to representatives of the Santa Fe Route, in the interest of whose tourist travel it has been published. CHAS. F. JONES, Agent.

As all the admirals will retire this year, except Dewey, next Christmas Admiral George Dewey will become the ranking officer of the navy, to the gratification of every American citizen. People differ as to the relative merits of Sampson and Schley, but all agree on Dewey and hope Congress will extend the provisions of the act in regard to retirement and keep Dewey at the head for the next ten years at least. Such are the suggestions of the Chicago News; but we would add that he should be thus continued as Admiral, and not Rear Admiral, as now.

TO BE REGRETTED.

Letters from Washington represent Lieutenant Hobson as liable to be spoiled by the adulation thrust upon him wherever he goes, by the many who are less wise than enthusiastic. One such letter says:

It is idle to say that this flood of female adulation will have no effect upon a level-headed man. It is already showing its effect upon Lieut. Hobson. This was plain to those who saw him on his first visit to Washington two or three weeks ago, and who met him again this week. Then he blushed and otherwise displayed modest confusion while listening to fulsome praise; now, he takes it as a matter of course, and really seems to like it and expect it from those he meets for the first time.

An amusing instance of the egotism that adulation has aroused in Hobson occurred when he was leaving Annapolis, after his visit to Cervera. One of the daughters of Annapolis, daughter of a prominent naval official, ran towards the train just as it started, waving her handkerchief and shouting good-bye. Hobson was so sure that the demonstration was intended for him that he rushed out on the rear platform and waved his handkerchief and blessed his hand at the young lady. About that time he discovered that the young lady's farewell was intended for a girl whom he was on the train and not for him.

Speaking of Lieut. Hobson, a retired naval officer who knows and admires the young man's many good qualities, said: "If Hobson is wise, he will seek and obtain service on some ship that is likely to remain in foreign waters a year or so; if he does, he will be able in after years to look back upon the present period of gush over him as an incident more or less interesting in his career; if he remains where he can continue to personally receive all this adulation, I very much fear that his career will be greatly injured, if not spoiled entirely, by an aggravated case of the big head."

TRADE IMPORTANCE.

The Philadelphia Press says that with Cuba independent, under American guardianship, and Puerto Rico ceded, our trade with these islands will be free and the trade of every other West Indian island will be ruined. No one can grow tobacco, make sugar or provide tropical products for our markets in competition with these islands.

Either the rest of the West Indies must follow suit and seek like reciprocal relations with this country or they must see their plantations ruined. This great economic change is but half the advantage won by the United States. Our continental area produces all but tropical products. Cuba, Puerto Rico, and one must add Luzon, furnish every tropical product known. In a couple of years Cuba and Puerto Rico will be making half of the 2,400,000 tons of sugar this country imports. In five years they will be making it all. German bounty sugar will have a rival which will drive it out of a market to which it now supplies 800,000 tons a year.

Coffee will follow sugar, particularly in Puerto Rico. Given these tropical islands, and the United States can dictate terms to the trade of Europe or of South America.

Many a man has been convicted of forgery because he took Solomon's advice and chose a good name for himself.



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